

Application No.: 09/913,362  
Amendment Dated: February 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of: November 30, 2004

MAT-8172US

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Claims 1 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (5,581,180). Claims 1 and 27 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cotton et al. (6,320,375). Claims 11-14 and 28, however, were indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, the features of claim 11 have been incorporated into all of the independent claims. As there is now an allowable independent claim, the previously withdrawn claims are now in condition for allowance.

The above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LEA/fp

Dated: February 23, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

February 23, 2005

*Fran Petrucci*